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Equal Rights

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ALICE HUDSON, J. P.

Lord Mayor of Eastbourne, England, whose administration is said to be among the most efficient the citizens of Eastbourne have ever enjoyed. Miss Hudson has long taken an active part in the political life of her country.

Feminist Notes

French Candidate Runs on Suffrage Platform

REGULATIONS for the approaching elections in France state that, as women have no political rights, they cannot legally be candidates, and ballots cast for them will be considered blank ballots.

But, in one of the electoral districts of Paris, suffragists have a Feminist candidate for Parliament in Seymour de Ricci, who announces himself as the first candidate to run on the single issue of woman suffrage. In 1919 and again in 1924 M. de Ricci sought election on this one-plank platform without success. The *scrutin de liste* method of voting, by which the voters of an *arrondissement* vote, not for a representative from the *arrondissement*, but for all representatives from the department in which it is situated, was a chief factor in his defeat. This year, appealing to 20,000 voters in the *Quartier des Ecoles*, an electorate drawn from all the provinces of France and informed on the issue, he hopes for success in what he terms "a new kind of candidacy, the object of which is not a seat, but the triumph of an idea."

United in campaigning for M. de Ricci are the four organizations: Union pour le Suffrage, Ligue pour le Droit des Femmes, Union Fraternelle, and Amelioration du sort de la Femme.

Political Liberty or Economic Liberty?

MARCELLE KRAEMER-BACH, author of "Legal Inequalities Between Men and Women," has returned to Paris after a visit to England, where she studied the position of women in that country and spoke before the Women's Freedom League.

Commenting in *La Francaise* upon her discovery that, although many Englishwomen are voters, "government employes, teachers, professors are pitilessly discharged in almost all cases when they enter into lawful marriage," she says: "What a premium upon free unions! This problem is, I was told, not one of principle, but of fact, the consequence of unemployment and the stiff competition of men."

"These terrible restrictions upon the independence of women leave us wondering. For women—political liberty in Great Britain, economic liberty in France. Which is preferable? I like to believe that this crisis from which our women friends across the Channel are suffering will be of short duration, as well as the effect it has on women's work, and I wish this for them most earnestly. The right to work—is it not the first and fundamental right of every human being?"

Physique of Women in Industry

THE WOMAN ENGINEER, official organ of the Women's Engineering Society (England), reports that the Industrial Fatigue Research Board found, in studying the relation of weight-lifting to fatigue, that throughout "the physique of male young persons is inferior to that of female young persons among those examined."

The *Woman Engineer* then comments:

"Whilst giving our unstinted appreciation of the work herein recorded, and whilst paying tribute to the zeal and understanding with which it has been carried out, we must draw attention, with much regret, to the continued use of the term, 'Women and Young Persons.'"

"We know that the Home Secretary and his skilled and trained advisers issue regulations based upon present legislation."

"The use of the term, 'Women and Young Persons,' is, therefore, not of their making."

"But present-day needs and practices should surely weigh with a Government department when regulations for the governance of industry are being issued."

"Could anything be more unfair than a classification which, by placing a 'woman' in the same category as a 'young person,' prevents her from learning her trade or from practicing her trade after it is learned?"

"Such a case has come to our notice, and it behooves every woman with the interests of her sex at heart to see to it that the new Factory Bill shall remove forever from the statute book such an injustice and such an anomaly."

"If any justification ever existed for such a restriction it is today utterly out of keeping with woman's modern aspirations and modern industrial needs."

Mexico's New Civil Code

THE new civil code being drafted in Mexico, it is reported, grants full civil rights to women, but the suffrage will still be denied them.

Under the new laws, which are expected to be promulgated soon, women will have an equal share in the education and rearing of the children, power to exercise the duties of trustee or administrator, and to engage in any function without legal impediment.

The new code would also abolish illegitimacy, allow children to investigate and establish the identity of their fathers, and would give women jurisdiction over their children by a previous marriage.

Women Pastors Restricted in Switzerland

THE action of the Consistory of the National Protestant Church of Geneva in admitting women to the ministry, while recognized as important, fails to satisfy Swiss Feminists, because, on account of opposition by both clergy and laymen to a woman as "the head of a parish," it is provided that women theological graduates may become only "auxiliary and assistant pastors." It is especially regrettable, says *Le Mouvement Feministe* (Geneva), that this restriction "becomes part of the constitution of the church, as it is always unfortunate to establish an exception in a fundamental charter."

"But," it adds, "considering the prevailing state of mind, we believe that the commissions acted with wisdom and prudence. * * * We think they have found a way to disarm much of the opposition and to let women ministers prove their ability. * * * And we are sure that when people have come to have faith in them, when they have tested at Geneva as elsewhere the value of women's participation in the work of the church, when it is recognized that the spirit of a vocation is breathed into women as into men, and that no external barriers can bar its way, we are certain that then the amendment necessary to remove the recent restriction from the constitution will be introduced."

Lady Bailey's Long Trip

LADY MARY BAILEY, widely known British woman flier, arrived in Cape Town April 30 by airplane, thus completing a solo flight from Croydon, England, from which she started on March 9.

Lady Bailey made the journey in short hops and was held up for a short time in Cairo when the authorities refused her permission to proceed over the dangerous Soudan zone without an escort. Her only mishap was at Cabora, where she damaged her machine while landing and had to await another which was sent to her to complete her journey.

From the Bottom Up

TWELVE years ago Olive E. Frank of Buffalo went to work as a stenographer for an engineering and heating concern. Today she is the president and manager of a similar corporation of her own and has designed and patented some special engines and condensers.

Yet they say women do not stick to their jobs. Particularly do they say that married women do not stick to their jobs. But this is Mrs. Frank.

"Women and Children" and Governor Smith

A SERIAL STORY, "The Life of Alfred E. Smith," by Norman Hapgood and Henry Moskowitz, is appearing daily in the New York *Evening Telegram*.

In the issue of April 27 the authors, evidently with the intention of bringing before the public the human side of their Presidential candidate, who has come "up from the city streets," have set forth his reasons for sponsoring a minimum wage law for women in industry in New York.

Briefly, this serial has Governor Smith explain that everyone knows that men, through labor unions and labor organization have power to demand a minimum wage and do exact it today.

"Women and children," he says, "are not organized."

According to Governor Smith not a woman goes to work and not a young girl goes to work with the intention of always working in a store or factory; she goes there for a start in life. Her ultimate hope is the hope of all women to have her own home and her own family.

Consequently, women never organize.

Therefore, they are without power and the State must help them present their claims.

To place side by side, with these views of Governor Smith on women in industry, the opinions of his co-workers in the cause of "protective" laws for women, one finds an extraordinary assemblage of contradictions.

For instance, special Bulletin No. 110 of the New York State Department of Labor shows that the total number of women gainfully employed in New York State, in cities over 50,000, in 1920, which group includes employer, employe, salaried and wage-earning women, was 871,503, of

which 113,354, or 13.01 per cent. were in trades unions.

On page 29 of the same bulletin Mr. Leo Wolman's analysis of figures for 1910 for the United States as a whole as regards those gainfully employed and the extent of labor organization among them shows that of 30,060,000 male employes in the country, 2,042,000, or 6.8 per cent were unionists, and of the 8,075,000 females in industry 73,800, or 0.9 per cent. were members of Labor organizations.

Mr. Wolman brings out very clearly the fact that the great bulk of organization in 1910 was to be found among the skilled workers, and the low percentage of organization in industry as a whole is to be attributed to the inability of labor unions to spread organization among the vast groups of clerical and other workers, and unskilled workers.

So that, even though the percentage of men unionists may be greater than that of women, it is evident that the majority of workers are unorganized. The unorganized woman worker must, therefore, compete with the unorganized man worker, and she can only compete with him on equal terms when she is unhampered by legal restrictions, which apply to her and not to him.

Governor Smith links "women and children" together in industry. The Woman's Party claims that identical legislation for children and women prevents children from getting needed protection. To specify a legal minimum wage for "women and children," which frequently becomes a maximum wage, and to restrict by legislation the hours of labor of women but not those of men, perpetuates the idea that women are a class apart in industry, who are only allowed to work at special hours,

and are, like children, to be under special supervision of the State and subject to special governmental regulations, and deepens the impression that women are essentially inferior as economic units.

Bulletin No. 32 published by the Women's Bureau, United States Department of Labor, refutes Governor Smith's theory that all women enter industry as a stepping stone to marriage.

"The old theory," says Bulletin No. 32, "that women do not need trade training because they marry and abandon the industrial world is being disproved. * * * The girls in a mill community usually go to work in some capacity as soon as they are old enough. * * * They marry men who are also mill operatives and continue to work after marriage as before * * *."

"Women can no longer be regarded as temporary workers, nor does marriage put an end to their industrial experience." * * * "Whether married women go to work because of economic necessity, whether it is from personal preference for work outside the home, or whether it means a desire to be economically independent of their husbands, they are being employed in increasingly large numbers." (From Industrial Bulletin issued by Bureau of Women in Industry, New York State Labor Department. Nelle Swartz, Director.)

These facts have been stated and restated by those of us who believe in Equal Rights for women in industry so many times that one would hardly think it worth while to try to convince intelligent folk of their logic. It seems hardly possible that astute political leaders could hope that sensible self-supporting women throughout the United States could endorse a program of special restrictive laws for women.

Zonta Discusses Protective Legislation

THE Watkins *Express* of April 4, 1928, gives an interesting account of the Zonta District Conference, which was held at the Ithaca Hotel, Ithaca, on March 31.

"Miss Louise C. Gerry, international president of Zonta, addressed the evening session, where a banquet and entertainment were enjoyed.

"Miss Gerry told of the growth of Zonta, particularly in the Middle West and South during the past year. There is now no section of the country without Zonta, and in addition there are clubs in Australia and Canada.

"Her address emphasized the importance of women's ever-widening sphere of

activities and the necessity for clear, level-headed thinking as individuals rather than 'females.' Women must increase and develop their capacity for accepting responsibilities, for the positions are many.

"The vital question of restrictive legislation was discussed by Mrs. Nina Broderick Price, president of the New York City Zonta Club. Not a militant Feminist, but nevertheless an ardent Feminist, Mrs. Price is a personality not soon forgotten. Well known in New York as an authority in the advertising profession, her talk Saturday evening was none the less eloquent for its simple, straightforwardness, dramatic in its appealing earnestness. She reiterated the challenge that the women

executives of the country must exert themselves and bring their first-hand knowledge of business methods and true requirements to bear upon legislation. Her point is that regulation and restriction, whenever and if necessary, should be based not upon the sex, but on the nature of the work or occupation. To quote but one of her examples, there is something to think about in the fact that women managers of chain stores have been forced to seek other positions because of the recent eight-hour law. 'We have the vote,' exclaimed Mrs. Price, 'but we are not liberated.' She voiced the warning that only by women's incessant intelligent and united efforts can unfair, traditional bondage be broken."

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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

The object of this organization shall be to secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 64.]

Introduced in the Senate, January 4, 1928,
by SENATOR CHARLES E. CURTIS.

A World Problem

THE president of the National Woman's Party, Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, has, from her Paris home, recently issued a statement on the international aspects of Feminism. This statement has been widely used by the press both in the United States and in Europe, and we present it herewith to our readers as being of especial interest to American Feminists:

The most significant step in the advancement of women since the first Equal Rights convention in Seneca Falls in 1848 drew up a declaration calling for the removal of all forms of the subjection of women comes eighty years later with the presentation of an Equal Rights treaty to the Pan-American Conference in Havana in 1928.

As the first Feminist convention put into definite form the demands of women for an equal status with men, for which we today are still working, so the committee representing the National Woman's Party attending the conference of the twenty-one republics of the western hemisphere has first offered the question for international action.

The problem of full civil and political equality of women has been officially acknowledged as one demanding world consideration and is raised to the position of a world problem. The Pan-American Conference has recognized the question as belonging to this class by granting our women a hearing before their plenary session—a privilege which had formerly been reserved for high officials like the President of the United States.

After hearing the appeal of the women from the National Woman's Party the conference authorized by unanimous consent the appointment of a committee of twenty-one women to investigate and report back to the next conference, thus taking the same action on the question of equality for women as on the other international affairs to be considered by the union of all the American States.

This second great advance toward the equality of women is, like the first, brought about by the initiative of the women of the United States. With the increased speed of the modern world we have not had to wait fifty years to see the first victory for the new policy. The appointment of the committee of women virtually concedes our contention. This advance made in the western hemisphere will, moreover, act as a spur to the older hemisphere, which cannot afford to lag behind the western world in so important a step forward in the evolution of women. Furthermore, there now is established a precedent for consideration by international bodies of the rights of women. The standard having been set by a group of more progressive countries, the more conservative ones must follow along. We gauge the advancement of civilization in this age by the position of women in a country or a group of countries.

I am having the now historical speech of Doris Stevens before the Pan-American Conference translated into French for distribution to leading women throughout Europe. Through our own International Advisory Council, with representatives from twenty-one countries of the Old World, we shall send out this report of another great victory in the woman movement to the women struggling for recognition in many nations to inform them and to encourage them to renew their efforts in the always difficult fight against fear and prejudice, which form the greatest obstacles to women's advancement.

Feminists in other continents—Europe, Asia and Africa—will know of our achievements and will follow by presenting before international conferences where their countries are represented demands similar to ours for an Equal Rights treaty.

Militancy As a Symptom

THE adoption by French women of militant tactics to secure the vote for the members of their sex should be acclaimed by Feminists on two counts; first, because militancy has been found to be an efficacious method of instituting votes for women wherever it has been tried; and, second, because as a symptom of a vigorous Equal Rights movement militancy is conclusive. As long as women are content merely to plead, and beg, and cajole men for their rights, the movement may be said to be in its infancy, but when they demand, and support their demand by action, then the end is not far off.

We predict that French women will soon be seen at the polls, ballot in hand, and we base our prediction on the happy fact that they have at last lost their patience.

Rhode Island Defeats Teachers' Equal Right Bill

IT is with the keenest regret that the Rhode Island Branch of the National Woman's Party reports the defeat of the Teachers' Bill in Rhode Island this year. This measure designed to prevent discrimination between men and women teachers was first introduced into the Legislature in 1922, again in 1923, and every years since. It is one of the bills drawn up by Burnita Shelton Matthews after an intensive study had been made of the discriminations which exist in Rhode Island against women.

It was learned from this survey that inequality as to salary exists everywhere in Rhode Island where men and women are employed as teachers, that married women are carefully barred from teaching and that the great majority of the best positions are filled by men.

This revelation of facts so aroused Rhode Island women that practically all women's organization, Democratic and Republican, made an issue of equality measures with especial reference to teachers. As a result of this activity the Equal Guardianship Law became a part of the children's code; the Jurors' Bill was enacted into law last year; the Federation of Women's Club tried in vain this year for the equalization of dower and curtesy rights; and through the Women's Republican Club three excellent laws shortening the working hours of children under sixteen—one of them giving a 48-hour week—were added to the statutes, thus forever, we hope, separating women and children and dividing workers into two classes, children and adults. This last result, at least in part, may be traced to the able work of Ada Wolff and Maud D. Williams

By Sara M. Algeo

Chairman of the Rhode Island Branch of the National Woman's Party

of the Woman's Party who, with local members, put up such a strong fight in 1923 against protective legislation.

These are real victories and indicate progress toward equality in general but do not offset among the members of the Rhode Island Branch the real disappointment felt in the failure this year of the Teachers' Bill. The stage seemed to be all set for its passage. After five years of hard work and constant propaganda, with every large organization of women registering favorable endorsements and working in its behalf with a young and ambitious Republican Governor, whose sister was forced from her position as teacher by reason of her marriage and who himself seeks election and will stand in sore need of the good-will of the teachers next November, heartily in sympathy, and with more votes promised in its behalf than would have carried it well over the top, it seemed booked for certain passage instead of death in the committee at the last moment.

It may have been a last moment trade that caused its extinction. What seems more probable is that the word of command came down from the top — from Frederick S. Peck, Rhode Island chairman of the National Republican Committee, who has always proved himself the bitter foe of measures affecting women favorably. In an interview with him in January he presented the only valid argument, *i. e.*, valid from their own standpoint, that men

can raise against equality for women—which is that a woman is not as good a worker or teacher as man, that men are better teachers and should be paid more, that woman's place is in the home, *et cetera, ad infinitum*. When one runs across a man like that in political life one feels sorry that his position is an appointive rather than an elective one.

In appreciation of the efforts of the chairman of the Rhode Island Branch a delegation from the Women's High School Teachers' Association of Providence came to the State House on the last day of the session when it was learned that the bill was to be killed in committee and presented her with a beautiful bouquet of sweet peas and lilies of the valley. Taking seats on the floor of the Senate which is the customary procedure in the Senate for all visitors, they were rudely expelled by the doorman with the approval of certain Senators. Apparently it was feared that these dignified teachers, some of whom were the possessors of Ph.D.'s and all of whom had obtained distinction in their profession had concealed bombs or other dangerous weapons about their persons.

After distinct and audible protest upon the part of the Rhode Island chairman, who has made a careful study of her citizenship rights, both in and outside the State House, and realizing that all hope for the passage of the bill was dead, they all quietly withdrew in a body with the lesson burned into their innermost souls that Equal Rights, common justice, even ordinary courtesy in man's chosen field of politics are not to be attained save by a hard, fierce struggle. So endeth the first lesson after five years!

Chinese Feminists As Seen By a French Woman

AT a tea given for her at National Headquarters of the Woman's Party on May 5, Camille Drevet of France, member of the International Advisory Council of the Party, told what she had seen of the woman movement in China during her recent three-months stay there as one of a delegation of women from the Women's International League to the women of China.

Mme. Drevet said: "The Chinese Feminist program is one of Equal Rights. Their political program is to support the Nationalist regime, because they believe that in spite of the conflicts between men and parties, this is the real new regime for new China. Actually the tendency of the Nationalist Government is to keep all organizations in its own hands, and I do not know if this is to be the future of the women's organizations. I can say that while Chinese women have all their rights

in principle under the Nationalist regime, to realize these rights in a country of tradition is slow work.

"Old and new customs exist side by side. We found modern women, in modern clothing, living in old Chinese fashion in a great family of as many as four hundred persons. When we were entertained at luncheon by Soume Tchong, the first Chinese woman lawyer, who was last year made head of the Chinese court at Shanghai, and who is now dean of a law school in Paris, the men sat at one table and the women at another.

"We were in China only three months and I cannot say I know all the conditions or met all classes of women, but we spent almost all our time with Chinese women and in their homes; so that we really saw more of Chinese life than is seen in three years or in thirteen years by people who

live in a foreign concession and never enter a Chinese house.

"Six women's organizations sent representatives to our first meeting in Shanghai. In Shanghai, Nanking, Peking, Hankow, Canton, we met all the groups of the Chinese Y. W. C. A. In Nanking we spent an afternoon with members of the women's department in the National Government, members of the Chinese Y. W. C. A., and some American and Chinese teachers, visiting Sun Yat Sen's tomb on the Purple Mountain, and we spoke about questions of interest to all the women of the world.

"Women in the different political groups agree in being very grateful to Sun Yat Sen and to the new government based on his revolution for recognizing the rights of women. In Canton on International Women's Day on the sixth of March, more than one thousand women gathered in a

yard of Sun Yat Sen's University, with their slogans and flags and posters of all colors. The Girl Scouts took part. At the sides were men looking on, not laughing or smiling as so many men in France would do. On the stage were delegates of the women's organizations, colleges and schools. After speeches by the delegates and by a woman representing the National Government, the chairman proclaimed their slogans: amendment of the laws to put women on the same footing as men, educational and professional equality, liberty (of choice) in marriage. They protest against polygamy, against all oppression of women, and against the 'etiquette' that is such a slavery for women.

"We met women doctors, journalists, and magazine writers in Pekin and Shanghai, teachers in schools and colleges and universities, members of the National Association of Nurses, and wives of the political leaders. Men are not opposed to the woman's movement. Chinese women who have had power in their homes are coming into social and political life like their large river in the wide plains. Women's organizations have made a beginning of investigating and improving working-women's conditions. In Wuhan, where women worked 16 and 18 hours for 20 cents, and men received 40 cents, after the work of the organizations women worked only 13 hours and got 40 cents. These organizations have now been destroyed by this reaction against communism and against organizations even suspected of being Communist. On account

of this reaction we were not able to see women workers. Some are abroad. Some were arrested, even executed. Many are silent.

"Chinese women are active, faithful and hopeful. In Canton men and women work together in medical and government work. There is a fine club for men and women. In Pekin at the International Woman's Club, Mrs. Chu said: 'This is the first time in the history of China that we have had three women delegates from other nations come here to visit us. It is an epoch-making event. We women of China may lift up our heads to look beyond ourselves into the big world and feel that we are also a part of the whole world whose ultimate destiny is peace and joy, love and freedom.' We hope that conditions in China will soon permit Chinese women to realize their program. They wish to see their country free from the sufferings caused by civil war and they asked us to work against the exporting of arms to China.

"We know that behind the screen of political and military life women and men of good-will are working for their country. They are the builders of a new China and they work for a new world.

"Women like those in the National Woman's Party and the Women's International League are the real life of China. Both groups work for freedom and justice for men and women."

Before she spoke, Mme. Drevet sang several songs in French and in Russian. One Russian Song, expressing the desire for freedom of a down-trodden woman of

old Russia, especially pleased the Feminist gathering.

Tea was served in the garden where lilacs and iris are in bloom. Ruth Hudson spoke of the international work of the Woman's Party, she said: "The progress of women in one country may be held back by their lack of progress in another. Therefore we say to women of other countries, 'Let us help you, and you can help us.' We are united nationally in the National Woman's Party and internationally with other Feminists of the world."

She also spoke of the inferior or limited opportunities for higher education provided for women compared to those provided for men by Virginia, North Carolina, Florida and some other States.

Mrs. John Jay White of New York read some of her poems, including the one entitled "Alice Paul." Mrs. Max Rotter of Milwaukee presided. Among the out-of-town guests were Mrs. Florence G. Tausig of St. Louis, Mrs. Bedgood of Indianapolis, Miss Mary Caroline Taylor of Chicago, chairman of the Illinois Branch of the National Woman's Party; Mrs. P. J. Simmen of Eden, N. Y.; Miss Edith Ainge of Jamestown, N. Y.; Mrs. J. W. Kinsey of California; Mrs. Arthur Bye and Miss Margaret Bye of Swarthmore, Pa.

Mrs. Lucia Hanna Hadley of Denver and Mrs. J. Monroe Hunter poured tea, assisted by Mrs. Edna Evans, Mrs. Arthur Roehrer; Miss Elizabeth Hooper, Miss Florence Hooper, Miss Margaret Bye, Miss Dorothy Hunter, Miss Sandy Hunter, Miss Gibbons, and Miss Marie Futer.

Working Women Repudiate Protection

ONCE again the National League of Women Voters has gone on record against industrial equality for women, and again the Women's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor has stepped outside its province when, according to a report in the *New York Times* of April 27, 1928, Mary Anderson, chief of the bureau, recommended to the National Convention of the League that it make its legislative demand for a 48-hour week law for women in industry. This in the name of "protection" for women!

When a group of women in industry sought to send a delegate to the Conference of Women in Industry, called in Washington a few years ago by the Women's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor, they were denied credentials, so all that the women workers could do was to send an unofficial observer, and she observed aplenty.

The accredited delegates to this Conference of Women in Industry were representatives of Catholic Big Sisters, Jewish Big Sisters, Church Guilds and organizations of all sorts, the Women's Chris-

By Margaret Kerr Firth

(Mrs. Firth is president of the Women's Equal Opportunity League of New York, the members of which are all self-supporting women. She is also a member of Typographical Union No. 6.)

tian Temperance Union and the Young Women's Christian Association, so that our observer gained the impression that it was a conference of religious bodies. All of these organizations, none of which has a membership of self-supporting women, have consistently followed the lead of the Chief of the Women's Bureau and have gone on record against Equal Rights for women in industry.

It was no surprise, therefore, to working women to read in the press that Miss Anderson appeared at the League Convention for the purpose of recommending 48-hour week legislation for women in industry as being more flexible and easier to secure than a straight 8-hour day law. The convention, according to newspaper reports, went on record in favor of an 8-hour day law for women.

Incensed at this continued interference of a civic and welfare organization in a matter so vital to the lives of wage-earning women, and at the usurpation of power by a branch of the Executive Department of the Government, the president of the Women's Equal Opportunity League sent, on April 27, in behalf of the League, the following telegrams to the Secretary of Labor and to the chairman of the National Convention of the League of Women Voters respectively:

"HON. JAMES J. DAVIS,
Secretary of Labor,
Washington, D. C.

"Self-supporting women, who, directly or indirectly, are taxed to support Women's Bureau, United States Department of Labor, protest against reported recommendation by Mary Anderson, chief of bureau, for State legislation for 48-hour law for women workers, at National Convention of League of Women Voters.

"Chief of Women's Bureau is usurping her position when she recommends special labor laws for women, which are op-

posed by increasing numbers of wage-earning women.

"Department of Labor is an executive branch of government and not legislative. Ask Department of Labor to instruct its employees not to appear at public gatherings either for or against measures which come under jurisdiction of department.

"(Signed) MARGARET KERR FIRTH, *Pres.*,
Women's Equal Opportunity League
of New York."

"Chairman, National Convention
League of Women Voters,
Chicago, Ill.

"Wage-earning women protest against convention program for 8-hour law for women workers. Nearly every restrictive law for women which your organization has helped to make in New York has been broken down by working women affected by them.

"We believe in a short work day for all workers but oppose special labor laws for women alone, which handicap women in competing with men in earning a livelihood.

"We protest against a civic and social welfare organization interfering with the rights of self-supporting women.

"(Signed) MARGARET K. FIRTH, *Pres.*,
Women's Equal Opportunity
League of New York."

"Truly, a 48-hour law for women or a straight 8-hour day law for women are nice—for men; they are so eliminating! They are not so nice for men when applied to men; they are so abdicating!

That is it. When women ask for special restrictive laws for working women, they are asking them to abdicate their rights as human beings. When women ask for special "protection," they thereby admit

their own weakness and inadequacy, as a sex, to cope with conditions as they find them. Notice it is not the women concerned who ask for this. *They* ask to be let alone.

Group by group women workers of New York are emancipating themselves by having repealed sections of the labor law which restrict them. First, women ticket agents on the Brooklyn Rapid Transit; women printers, reporters, waitresses in hotels, and now licensed women pharmacists.

When men ask for the same restrictive legislation for themselves that they seek for women, then we shall know that they are sincere. Until then, it behooves all women to fight for equal opportunity and to protest publicly whenever State or National Departments of Labor, or civic and social welfare organizations recommend legislation restricting the hours of women but not those of men.

The Training of Women Doctors

(Reprinted from the *Woman's Leader*.)

A MONTH ago Feminists were to be found who asked one another what, once the vote was won, would remain as the objective for a fighting woman's movement. A fortnight ago some part of the answer was given by three London hospitals — King's, Westminster, and Charing Cross, which refused, simultaneously, to continue training women medical students. Last week London University, deeply committed towards certain of its undergraduates who have begun their medical course, and acting, moreover, in accordance with its honorable tradition of treating both sexes equally, decided to set up a committee to explore the problem. It seems a good committee, under the chairmanship of Sir William Beveridge, and two of its members are women—Miss Strudwick, the high mistress of St. Paul's Girls' School and Miss Tuke, the principal of Bedford College for Women. Anything that can be done in a conciliatory spirit we are sure it will do, and it may also serve a useful purpose in making clear exactly what facilities there are for women medical students, and what is the demand for them. But beyond this it cannot go. In the meantime, the hospitals, at any rate Westminster, which initiated the retrogression, have sent a protagonist into the columns of *The Times*. He is their senior physician, Sir James Purves-Stewart, and he does not seem to be in a conciliatory mood. He begins by stating what we are surprised to learn that anyone is in a position to state, namely, that within a few years of graduating 50 per cent or thereabouts of women doctors, "usually the ablest and best qualified," leave the profession for marriage. We ourselves have been unable to ascertain from any source how many women are practising

as doctors, either in private practice or as public servants, or how many of this unknown number are married. Just as difficult must it be then to find out how many doctors are not practicing and married. If Sir James' statement is based on figures, we should be glad to have them. If it is merely his impression of what is going on, it does not coincide with the impressions formed by other observers as well placed for forming an accurate opinion. On this foundation, however, he bases the main contention of his letter, that women are wasting the valuable facilities offered by the hospitals and training schools. Now this, in other connections, is a familiar argument, and it has been answered often enough, but as it is making its first appearance in this particular controversy, we will answer it again. In the first place, apart from the demands of India and other Mohammedan countries, there is a great and growing demand for women doctors here at home. Patients who want to be attended by women have the right to do so, and as the whole of Sir James' argument is that facilities for training are limited, it follows that women should have a fair share of them. In "a fair share" we include the opportunity, if they want it, of obtaining clinical experience in a hospital which receives men patients. Even if all women doctors married and retired this would still hold true. But all women doctors do not marry, and not all who marry leave their profession, and many of those who do leave it retire, not of their own free will, but because they are forced to do so by the reactionary policy of the public bodies who employ them. If waste

there be in this process the blame for it lies not in nature, nor the perversity of woman, but in county and borough councillors and the curious interactions of their minds. But perhaps it is not altogether a waste that a number of women, trained for medicine, should not be actually absorbed in practice. The fight against disease and ignorance is not carried on entirely in the sickroom or public offices. Such women, especially if they are among the more able of their sex, can find work enough to do. It is one of the dangers of our society that as the technique of the sciences grow more formidable the ordinary citizen even when he sits on public bodies or the innumerable committees which direct our private charities and other efforts towards reform, becomes less and less able to keep in touch with the development of knowledge. Practicing doctors are among the busiest of men. They should be glad to think that the community at large contains members qualified and willing to support them in their unending struggle with indifference and prejudice. So far the cause of the women doctors has had what is called a good press. If the hospitals do not welcome them it is clear that the public values their work. In fact, this apparent set-back will probably turn out a blessing in that it will bring public opinion to bear not only on the question of training, but also on that of compulsory retirement on marriage. Other things being equal, a woman doctor is more valuable to society not less, when she is married, and a mother, and we hope that we may now count on Sir James Purves-Stewart's support in our endeavor to obtain for her the right of continuing after marriage to serve her fellow-creatures in the position she is best qualified to fill.

News from the Field

Club Femenino Elects

THE CLUB FEMININO DE CUBA, the first club founded by Cuban women in Cuba, elected its new officers and council on April 8. The new officers will hold office for two years.

They are: Emma Lopez Sena, president; Mrs. L. S. Houston, vice-president; Plintha Won y Gil, secretary-general; Narcisa Jubert, treasurer; Ofelia Rodriguez Acosta, librarian; Ofelia Rueda, chairman of educational work; Fulgencia Santana de Lores, director of publicity; Isabel Martinez de Alquizar, director of legal work; Mariana Panaigua, *directora de moralizacion*; Dulce M. Sainz de la Pena, director of welfare work; Lolita C. de Herrera, *directora de orden interior*; Maria Gomez Carbonell, director of civic subjects; and Senora Ferrari, *directora de afiliadas*.

Many of these names are familiar to readers of EQUAL RIGHTS as women who worked so courageously, effectively, and faithfully for Equal Rights at the Havana Conference of the Pan-American Union. Mrs. Houston was a recent visitor at Headquarters of the National Woman's Party, and is affiliated with the Party.

Dinner for Porto Rican Leaders

FELIX CORDOVA DAVILA, Resident Commissioner of Porto Rico; Mrs. Davila, George Butte, former attorney-general of Porto Rico, and Mrs. Butte were guests at a dinner at National Woman's Party Headquarters on Sunday evening, April 29, in honor of Dr. Marta Robert and Rosa Emanuelli.

Dr. Robert is secretary of the Liga Social Sufragista of Porto Rico, and Miss Emanuelli is a Porto Rican school teacher and suffrage leader. Both appeared the following morning before the Committee on Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives in behalf of the bill to enfranchise the women of Porto Rico. They had appeared before the Senate Committee on Territories and Insular Affairs the Wednesday before in behalf of an identical bill.

Former Attorney-General Butte spoke at the hearing, strongly urging the enfranchisement of Porto Rican women. He said that his experience in Porto Rico showed that the women of the island are fully as well qualified by intelligence, training, and experience to exercise the right of the ballot as the men.

"Since Congress has enfranchised the men of Porto Rico, why not enfranchise the women promptly?" he asked.

The session on Monday proved to be a lively one, reminiscent of pre-suffrage days in the United States. Mary Kilbreth of the *Woman Patriot* appeared against the

bill. The chairman of the committee, Representative Edgar Kiess of Pennsylvania, who introduced the bill, in speaking of the hearing afterward, described the quietness, forthrightness, and dignity of Dr. Robert's presentation of the case of Porto Rican women, and the spirited and forceful nature of her response to Miss Kilbreth.

The Liga Social Sufragista is affiliated with the National Woman's Party, and Miss Kilbreth directed a part of her attack on the Woman's Party.

Visitors at Headquarters

MRS. MAX ROTTER of Milwaukee, chairman of the Wisconsin State Branch of the National Woman's Party, was a visitor at National Headquarters last week. During her visit to Washington she interviewed Wisconsin members of Congress on their position on the Equal Rights Amendment.

Kathleen Hendrie of Detroit, officer of the Michigan State Branch, and Mrs. J. Kinsey of California have also been recent visitors to Headquarters.

Activities in Cuba

THE Committee on Civic Action of the Cuban Woman's Party gave a function at the Academy of Sciences during the last week of March in honor of two distinguished Spanish-American writers who had attended the conference of the Latin press—Teresa de la Parra and Irene de Vasconables. Both journalists spoke on suffrage and Equal Rights.

Blanche Z. de Baralt, in writing to the Woman's Party about the event, expresses the pleasure of Cuban women over the appointment of Doris Stevens as chairman of the Pan-American Women's Commission, which was authorized by the Pan-American Conference in Havana.

Two Million Dollar Fund

Treasurer's Report

EMMA WOLD, Treasurer

NETTIE TRAIL, C. P. A., Auditor

RECEIPTS collected by National Headquarters, December 7, 1912, to April 16, 1928, \$1,447,014.25.

Contributions, membership and other receipts, April 16, 1928, to May 1, 1928:

Mr. Dudley Field Malone, N. Y.	\$280.00
Mr. Kenneth F. Simpson, N. Y.	3.00
Per New York City Committee:	
(New York City Committee retaining dues in excess of 25 cents)	
Mrs. Edward F. Brundage	.25
Miss Mary F. Gillen	.25
Miss Frances M. Branden	.25
Mrs. John A. Davis	.25
Miss Florence Jennings	.25
Mrs. Walter E. Leamon	.25
Mrs. Phyllis Lewis	.25
Mrs. M. E. Opton	.25
Miss Georgia O'Keeffe	.25
Mrs. Mignon Shembri	.25
Mrs. H. B. Sorries	.25
Dr. J. V. H. Baker	.25
Mme. Alice Baroni	.25
Miss Maude M. Gillette	.25
Mrs. Clarence M. Smith	.25

Mrs. Radcliffe Swinerton	.25
Mrs. M. Holcomb	.25
Miss E. J. Burns	.25
Miss N. Connors	.25
Miss E. Fitzpatrick	.25
Mrs. Fulton	.25
Miss M. McLaughlin	.25
Miss A. Nash	.25
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Miss B. Vogt	.25
Miss M. F. Walsh	.25
Miss E. Beston	.25
Miss M. Fahey	.25
Miss Greenwald	.25
Miss M. Wemsen	.25
Miss M. Angone	.25
Miss N. Downey	.25
Miss Alice Gray	.25
Miss Anna Frank	.25
Mrs. Edwards	.25
Miss L. Morton	.25
Miss M. T. Scanlan	.25
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Miss K. Sullivan	.25
Miss M. Reilly	.25
Miss M. Lynch	.25
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Miss Bertha Stender	.25
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Miss S. Blake	.25
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Miss McGlone	.25
Miss N. M. Creed	.25
Miss Mary Josephine Smith	.25
Mrs. Julia F. Barnard, Cal.	5.00
Miss Ruth Crocker, Va.	1.00
Per Syracuse Branch	50.00
Miss Mary Moss Wellborn, Ala.	1.00
Per New Jersey Branch:	
(New Jersey Branch retaining dues in excess of 25 cents)	
Miss Margaret Laird	.25
Miss Constance Carpenter	.25
Miss Mary Philbrook	.25
Miss Agnes Campbell	.25
Mrs. Lucy Karr Milburn	.25
Miss Sallie Hovey, Me.	10.00
Miss Editha Phelps, Ill.	10.00
Mrs. Mary A. Futer, Pa.	1.00
Miss Marie E. Futer, Pa.	1.00
Mrs. George Joslin, Iowa	1.00
Madame Aziz Ali Bey, Egypt	10.00
Miss Caroline Pillsbury, Cal.	10.00
Dividend from Endowment Fund	11.25
Sale of literature	4.25
Rent of rooms at Headquarters	347.00

\$768.75

Per Equal Rights Committee:

Mrs. H. O. Havemeyer, N. Y. 23.00

Total receipts, April 16 to May 1, 1928, \$791.75

Total receipts, December 7, 1912, to May 1, 1928, \$1,447,806.00

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